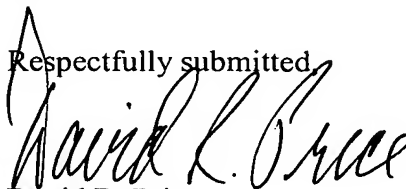


## REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is made to conform the claims to U.S. practice and to reduce the number of claims. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

If a conference call would be useful in resolving issues arising from the filing of this communication, please contact the undersigned at the below-noted number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David R. Price  
Reg. No. 31,557

Docket No. 013344-9055-00

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